

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 OMB-01 AF-10

DHA-02 ACDA-07 IO-13 /127 W

-----051107Z 009835 /14

R 050505Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7672

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 1915

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SN, GW, US

SUBJECT: VISIT TO SINGAPORE OF FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER

REF: A) BONN 61958 B) JAKARTA 5667 C) SINGAPORE 1788

D) SINGAPORE 1853

1. SUMMARY: FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER APPARENTLY
MANAGED TO ESTABLISH EXCELLENT PERSONAL RAPPORT WITH
SINGAPORE PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW DURING HIS BRIEF
VISIT TO SINGAPORE APRIL 28-29. GERMAN AMBASSADOR
DIETRICH DISCLOSED THAT GENSCHER'S TWO HOUR DISCUSSION
WITH LEE FOCUSED ON GLOBAL COMMUNIST THREAT; ON PRESIDENT
CARTER AND U.S. ROLE IN WORLD AND IN SEA; AND, ON
EC-ASEAN RELATIONSHIP. IN BRIEF DISCUSSION WITH HIS
HOST, FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM, GENSCHER RAISED
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HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. END SUMMARY

2. GERMAN AMBASSADOR DIETRICH ON MAY 4 BRIEFED
ECON/POL COUNSELOR ON FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER'S
CONVERSATIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER LEE AND FOREIGN
MINISTER RAJARATNAM. WHILE DIETRICH WAS NOT PREPARED TO SAY
THAT 20 HOUR VISIT OF LARGE FRG DLEGATION HAD

ACCOMPLISHED TANGIBLE RESULTS, HE FAIRLY EXUDED OVER EXCELLENT RAPPORT GENSCHER AND LEE WERE ABLE TO ESTABLISH, TWO LEADERS HAVING HAD AN ANIMATED, GIVE-AND-TAKE TWO HOUR CONVERSATION, DURING WHICH GENSCHER HAD OSTENSIBLY MANAGED TO AFFECT LEE'S VIEWS.

3. IN DISCUSSING GLOBAL SITUATION, LEE PROPOUNDED HIS THESIS REGARDING DECLINE OF WEST AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST THREAT. IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSING INSURGENCY AND SUBVERSIVE DANGER TO REGION, LEE CONCENTRATED ON MID-AND LONG-RANGE INTENTIONS OF SRV VIS-A-VIS NON-COMMUNIST SEA COUNTRIES AND COMMUNIST CHALLENGE IN AFRICA. HE TOLD GENSCHER THAT SRV WAS AVOIDING ATTACKS ON ASEAN, IN HOPE OF EVENTUALLY PICKING ORGANIZATION'S MEMBERS OFF ONE BY ONE, BEGINNING WITH THAILAND. FOR THIS REASON, SINGAPORE WAS HOLDING BACK ON ESTABLISHMENT OF EMBASSIES IN RESPECTIVE CAPITALS UNTIL SRV INTENTIONS BECAME CLEARER. REGARDING AFRICA, LEE REPORTEDLY ASSERTED THAT SITUATION THERE HAD PASSED POINT OF NO RETURN AND THAT MUCH OF CONTINENT HAD BEEN LOST TO WEST. ACCORDING TO DIETRICH, GENSCHER CHALLENGED THIS VIEW AND MANAGED TO EXTRACT FROM LEE ADMISSION THAT POSITION OF WEST IN AFRICA WAS NOT HOPELESS AND THAT STRENUOUS ATTEMPT SHOULD BE MADE TO REVERSE TREND. LEE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT US WOULD PROBABLY LEAVE IT TO EUROPEANS TO SALVAGE SITUATION ON THAT CONTINENT.

4. RESPONDING TO LEE'S QUESTIONS CONCERNING PRESIDENT
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CARTER AND U.S. RESOLVE TO RESIST FURTHER COMMUNIST ENCROACHMENT, GENSCHER PROVIDED HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE PRESIDENT AND OPINED THAT STRENGTH OF AMERICAN POLICY WAS REVIVING WITH CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP. GENSCHER TOLD LEE THAT DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON HE HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY PRESIDENT'S WILLINGNESS TO LISTEN, BY HIS INTELLIGENCE, HIS PRAGMATISM AND FLEXIBILITY. AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE LATTER QUALITIES, GENSCHER ADDUCED THE REVERSAL IN THE ADMINISTRATION'S STANCE ON \$50 TAX REBATE. DIETRICH, WHO SAT IN ON MEETING, SAID HE FELT THAT LEE WAS GENUINELY IMPRESSED BY GENSCHER'S EXPOSITION, ALTHOUGH LEE COUNTERED BY CITING JAPANESE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ARITA'S PORTRAYAL OF THE PRESIDENT'S INFLEXIBILITY REGARDING THE PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. TROOPS FROM KOREA. (IN AN ASIDE, DIETRICH MENTIONED THAT GOS SKEPTICISM REGARDING U.S. COMMITMENT TO AND INTEREST IN ASIA WAS MIRRORED IN A REMARK OF FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM'S TO BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG'S MINISTER FOR FEDERAL AFFAIRS ADORNO WHO VISITED SINGAPORE TWO

WEEKS EARLIER. REFERRING TO PRESIDENT'S FORD'S 1975 HONOLULU SPEECH, RAJA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT U.S. IS A PACIFIC POWER BUT FACT REMAINED THAT U.S. IS NOT IN ASIA AND THAT IT ATTACHES PRIMARY IMPORTANCE TO ITS RELATIONS WITH EUROPE.)

5. AS IN HIS TALKS WITH SUHARTO AND MALIK (REF B), GENSCHER EXPRESSED GERMAN INTEREST IN AN INTENSIFIED ASEAN-EC RELATIONSHIP. GENSCHER SAID THAT HE FELT CONSIDERATION OF EC TIES TO ASEAN, HERETOFORE LARGELY PROVINCE OF EC COMMISSION, SHOULD ALSO BE DEALT WITH ON A POLITICAL PLANE, I.E. AT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS LEVEL. UPON QUESTIONING, DIETRICH (AND SUBSEQUENTLY DCM GERSTER) SAID THAT SUCH CONSIDERATION WOULD IN FIRST INSTANCE PROBABLY BE INTRA-EC RATHER THAN FORESHADOW EARLY MINISTERIAL-LEVEL MEETINGS BETWEEN EC AND ASEAN.

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6. GENSCHER RAISED SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS WITH RAJARATNAM, MAKING VIRTUALLY THE SAME POINTS AS HE DID IN JAKARTA (PARA 4, REF B) IN RESPONSE, RAJA REPORTEDLY MAINTAINED THAT SITUATION IN SEA REMAINS PRECARIOUS DUE TO INSURGENCY THREAT AND INSIDIOUS DANGER POSED BY EURO-COMMUNISTS WORKING IN TANDEM WITH LOCAL SUBVERSIVES. IN RAJA'S VIEW, LATTER POSE AS REAL A THREAT TO REGIONAL STABILITY AND ENJOYMENT OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS BY BROAD MASSES AS DO INSURGENTS.

7. IN SUM, GENSCHER VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE GONE VERY WELL. NOT ONLY DID LEE AND GENSCHER HIT IT OFF PERSONALLY, BUT LEE ALLEGEDLY MADE EXTREMELY FAVORABLE IMPRESSION ON GERMAN OFFICIALS, BUSINESSMEN AND JOURNALISTS AT 45-MINUTE APRIL 28 PRESS CONFERENCE (REF D). ACCORDING TO GERSTER, LEE'S STRONG REMARKS ON PROTECTIONISM WERE BLOWN OUT OF PROPORTION AND TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT BY SINGAPORE PRESS REPORTS. VISITING GERMANS DID NOT FEEL THAT COMMENTS WERE UNGRACIOUS OR PARTICULARLY AIMED AT THEM; INDEED, LEE'S REMARKS WERE IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION CONCERNING JAPANESE TRADE SURPLUSES WITH THEIR MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS. FINALLY, GERSTER NOTED THAT THE USUALLY EBULLIENT GENSCHER WAS DRAGGING A LITTLE ON THE MORNING OF HIS DEPARTURE FROM SINGAPORE. THIS WAS, GERSTER THINKS, DUE AS MUCH TO THREE CALLS FROM BONN DURING THE NIGHT CONCERNING THE ERODING POSITION OF WEST BERLIN'S GOVERNING MAYOR, AS IT WAS FROM THE STRAIN OF GENSCHER'S ITINERARY.

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 05-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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